

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 5, 6, 12 and 13, of which claims 5 and 12 are independent. Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-18 have been canceled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

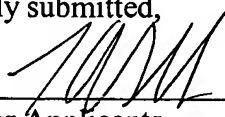
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the Examiner will appreciate, each of claims 5 and 12 has been rewritten into independent form and includes all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim. Accordingly, each of claims 5 and 12 is now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 6 and 13 depend from claims 5 and 12, respectively, and are therefore likewise in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Lawrence A. Stahl

Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200